

this country and all over the world that I support them. I am patriotic. To the whole world I still like peace, I want peace, and I am opposed to the war in Iraq, but I am a great American and I am a patriot.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to be heard, Mr. Speaker.

#### LIBERTY WILL PREVAIL

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today is a solemn day. History awaits America tonight, and while I would never question the patriotism of anyone who would challenge the wisdom of U.S. policy exercising their first amendment rights on this floor or in this Nation, I will challenge the wisdom of those who say that we are come upon this moment because of diplomatic failure, that we have come upon this moment because of a failure on the part of the President to lead the world toward consensus.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker, the President did not fail. Diplomacy did not fail. The United Nations failed in abdicating its historic role, minted in the aftermath of the Second World War, to be a bulwark against tyranny in the world. The United Nations failed, but as the world awaits our leadership and that of 30 other nations in the coalition of the willing, let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. The United Nations failed, but liberty will prevail.

#### EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER HARASSMENT OF SIKH YOUTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in concern about a troubling issue. Young Sikh boys are suffering from physical abuse, harassment and verbal taunting in some American schools. This is due to a lack of knowledge of the Sikh faith.

Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion and has existed in India for more than five centuries. Many Sikhs in India play important roles in both the State and Federal Governments, and Sikhs are an integral part of the Indian American community in this country.

As part of their faith, Sikh men leave their hair uncut and wear turbans. Students see images of the Taliban and mistake Sikh youth for extremists. As a result, many Sikh boys have been harassed. As the Republican cochair of the India Caucus, I ask school administrators to work with members of the Sikh community to educate all young people about the importance of respecting other people's faith. No child should ever fear for their physical safety inside an American school.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

#### CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY FILINGS IN AMERICA

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since 1980 consumer bankruptcy filings in America have absolutely quadrupled. Think about that. They have quadrupled, and why is that? Because bankruptcy used to be a term that made people shudder in their boots. Nobody wanted that black mark on their record. No one wanted that stigma. But today too many individuals think that filing for bankruptcy will erase their debt with little or no consequence, and it is high time for Americans to take financial responsibility for the debts that they have acquired.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2003 holds people accountable for their personal spending habits. If a person has debts and dissolves under Chapter 7, but have sufficient funds to pay off their debt, then clearly they should be required to pay it off, not to have their debt whisked painlessly away by just filing bankruptcy.

In my opinion, the Federal Government should not be in the business of bailing people out of their debt. We should instead be encouraging people to spend within their means and make logical and responsible financial choices, and this bill does just that.

This bill is about being held accountable, and it comes at just the right time. This is common-sense legislation. Bankruptcy abuse needs to stop, and this legislation is a step in the right direction.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO CLOSE RANKS

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, our troops are well-equipped, well-trained and well-led. They are well-led all the way from their noncommissioned officers and officers at the small unit and company and battalion and brigade and division level all the way up to their leader at the top, the Commander in Chief of America's Armed Forces, President George Bush.

They have everything they need for victory except for one ingredient, Mr. Speaker. They need a Congress which quits berating their President, who is their leader, and their mission and closes ranks behind that mission and our President for victory.

#### RECREATIONAL MARINE EMPLOYMENT ACT

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Recreational

Marine Employment Act, which I recently introduced with broad bipartisan support. Through enactment of this legislation, the recreational marine industry will be able to create thousands of new jobs by ensuring that marinas, boat builders and recreational boaters will not have to pay the unnecessary and exorbitant insurance premiums under the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act.

Congress never intended that recreational marine jobs be covered under the Longshore Act, which applies to commercial ships, not recreational boats, since individuals who work in the recreational marine industry are already covered under State worker's compensation laws. This legislation will simply clarify that the recreational marine industry is exempt from the Longshore Act.

A recent survey indicated that employers in the recreational marine industry would save an average of \$99,000 a year if this legislation passes, and 95 percent of those employers would use the savings to create additional jobs.

This bill would provide the common-sense clarification needed under the Longshore Act. I urge my colleagues to call my office today and sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 1329.

#### WAR ON IRAQ AND YOUNG CONSTITUENTS

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, through all the debate over attacking Iraq, it is important to remember how the threat of the United States attack on Iraq affects our youngest constituents.

Here is a letter that I just received from one such concerned constituent in my district, 7-year-old Nathaniel Smith from Capitola, California.

Dear Congressman Farr, My name is Nathaniel and I am 7 years old. I just want to say that I do not think the war is a very good idea. War is not a good way to solve problems, and it is a bad thing to happen in the world. It might destroy other people's property like houses and schools. People that are not in the war can die because soldiers might miss.

War is dangerous for nature. The money for war can go to schools. My school, Capitola Elementary, might close because my school does not have enough money. Please do not have a war.

Sincerely, Nathaniel Smith.

This youthful expression of concern eloquently captures the sentiment of so many Americans, young and old.

I would like to add my voice to that of Nathaniel Smith in urging the Commander in Chief who ordered this war to cancel it.

#### CONSTITUTION AND WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a very solemn time for this Nation. It is a solemn time for American families whose young men and women are facing danger in far-away shores. I think it is also a time when we grab hold of a document that has given us comfort for so many centuries, and that is the Constitution, and Mr. Speaker, I believe the Constitution demands that this Congress address the question of going to war with Iraq.

It is delineated in the Constitution that the Congress is the institution to declare war, and so I think it is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, for the President to come to this Congress, similarly as was done in a faraway country with Prime Minister Blair, who discussed this with the Parliament on yesterday, a solemn decision, a question of war and peace, a choice of life over death, options other than war.

Many of these issues can be discussed on behalf of the American people. Let us not be afraid to hear both support and opposition. That is what democracy is all about.

My question is, is this Congress going to remain deadly silent on the question of going to war with Iraq?

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### CIBOLA WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY CORRECTION

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 417) to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 417

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. REVOCATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDER WITH RESPECT TO LANDS ERRONEOUSLY INCLUDED IN CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CALIFORNIA.

Public Land Order 3442, dated August 21, 1964, is revoked insofar as it applies to the following described lands: San Bernardino Meridian, T11S, R22E, sec. 6, all of lots 1, 16, and 17, and SE¼ of SW¼ in Imperial County, California, aggregating approximately 140.32 acres.

#### SEC. 2. RESURVEY AND NOTICE OF MODIFIED BOUNDARIES.

The Secretary of the Interior shall, by not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) resurvey the boundaries of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, as modified by the revocation under section 1;

(2) publish notice of, and post conspicuous signs marking, the boundaries of the refuge determined in such resurvey; and

(3) prepare and publish a map showing the boundaries of the refuge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to strongly support this legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). He has done a superb job of representing his constituents, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves operating a concession within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

This concession, known as Walters Camp, has existed since 1962, and it has provided recreational opportunities to thousands of Americans. In fact, it is one of the few places along the lower Colorado River that offers such a variety of healthy outdoor activity.

About 3 years ago the concessionaire was advised by the Fish and Wildlife Service that Walters Camp was inadvertently added to the Cibola Refuge and that corrective legislation was necessary. This is the goal of this measure, to correct this mistake, and there is no opposition to returning the title of this property to the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the author of the bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, first, I wanted to give my thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, for his leadership and for understanding how important this bill that deals with a fairly small parcel of land, how important this is to working folks in southern California who need a place to get away from the boss and be with the family and enjoy rock hounding and fishing and canoeing and all the neat things one does on the Colorado River. The chairman, in his usual, very plain-spoken and straightforward style, has explained this very well.

This is 140 acres of land, known as Walters Camp, and that is probably named after a gentleman who was a gold miner on the Colorado River at one time. It was a concession that was operated for average folks who could come in and have a great time and rock hound and canoe and fish.

Unfortunately, in the land withdrawal for the Cibola Refuge in 1964, it was mistakenly added into the withdrawal.

□ 1030

Fish and Wildlife have testified on several occasions that it does not have

a significant value in terms of wildlife, and so they have no problem with righting this wrong and correcting this mistake.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), who is doing a superb job of chairing this committee and allowing me to move this bill, bringing it forward; and hopefully we can get the other body to act on it and restore a good measure of outdoor enjoyment to working families in Southern California. I thank the chairman, and I hope that we can pass this with an overwhelming vote.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, before I get to my remarks on H.R. 417, this is the first opportunity I have had to be on the floor with the new chairman of the Committee on Resources, and I wanted to welcome the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the new chairman of the Committee on Resources, and say that I look forward to working with the gentleman.

As stated by the previous speakers, the overall purpose of this legislation is to resolve a long-standing error that included a preexisting concession known as Walters Camp within the original 1964 public land withdrawal that created the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge.

In the 107th Congress, the Committee on Resources determined after a lengthy investigation that the inclusion of this concession was a genuine error in the original withdrawal and agreed that this error should be corrected.

H.R. 417 would make that legal adjustment. But just as important, this legislation will also ensure that all title interests to the 140 acres of land revoked from the Cibola Refuge remain public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. Allow me to be clear: nothing is being conveyed to the concession operator as part of this legislation. It is simply a transfer of lands from one Federal agency to another.

This legislation has also retained amendments adopted last year by the Committee on Resources to require the Secretary of the Interior to resurvey and conspicuously mark the new adjusted boundaries. These are prudent actions that should help reduce the likelihood of future encroachment by off-road vehicles onto the Cibola Refuge, which has been a growing management concern for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In closing, H.R. 417 is commonsense legislation. The bill will correct a technical error that could not be resolved administratively. And furthermore, it will help protect fragile refuge habitats